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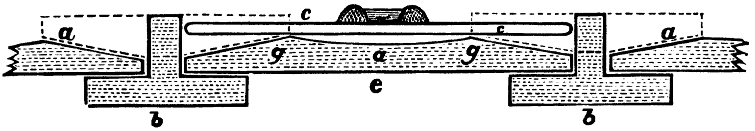
IMPROVED METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING SLIDE CABINETS.

By Henry E. Summers, Ithaca, N. Y.

It was my aim, in making the cabinet to be described, to combine the advantages of the different existing cabinets known to me, and at the same time to so simplify the construction that it could be made cheaply and by an ordinary carpenter with the tools usually at his command. The advantages spoken of, all of which should be found in any cabinet approaching perfection, are: (1.) Each slide should have a separate compartment. (2.) The slides should be easily removable. (3.) They should not rest upon the support immediately beneath the object. (4.) They should lie flat while the cabinet is in its ordinary position. (5.) They should be so held that the object cannot be injured if the cabinet is overturned in transportation.

The cabinet constructed was intended for slides of the ordinary length, three inches; but of two widths,—one inch, and two inches. The drawers are made up of strips or moldings of two forms. These are shown in section in the diagram, drawn to scale, in the relative position they occupy when joined. A slide, *c*, is also shown in place. The strips *a a* and *b b* run from the front to the back of the drawer. The slide *c* rests on the two ridges *g g* of the strip *a*. Between the ridges *g g*, the strip *a* is slightly hollowed, to prevent contact of the slide beneath the object, and consequent soiling. From the ridges *g g* to the edges, the strip *a* is beveled, so that one end of the slide may be tipped up by pressure upon the opposite end, in order that it may be grasped more readily. The strips *a a*



rest in rebates in the strips *b b*. These rebates are of such a depth that when the strips *a a* are in place the upper surface of one of the thickest slides in use will be just a trifle lower than the top of the strips *b b*. The cover glass or cell upon the slide may project above the top of the strips *b b*. The object will then extend up into the space *e* of the drawer above. This space should hence be high enough to admit the deepest cells.

The partitions between the sides of adjacent slides are merely short, thin strips of wood, tin, or better, ferrotype plate, set at proper intervals in grooves sawed across the upper part of the strips *b b*. If desired, these portions may be continuous across the drawer, but the short strips seem to serve every purpose, and are more easily inserted. If a cabinet has been entirely divided up for slides one inch wide, and it is desired to insert one two inches wide, a portion can be removed without in any way disturbing the rest of the drawer.

When these drawers are inserted in a cabinet, the strips *b b* are allowed to slide upon, or at least approach very near to, the corresponding strips of the drawer below. In case of overturning, the slides are held in place by the side projections of the strips *b b* of the drawer above. The two outer strips, *b b*, of each drawer form the sides of that drawer, the side projections of the strips in this case sliding in grooves in the sides of the cabinet, thus supporting the drawer. In the front and back of the drawer, it should be observed that the part opposite the space *e* must belong to the drawer *below*, in order that deep cells may not be injured when the drawers are slid in or out. The irregularity thus produced may be rendered inconspicuous by placing over these portions the porcelain tablets usually used for the members of the drawers and of the contained slides.

I would call attention to the fact that the two forms of strips used in this cabinet may be planed out in length by machine if a large quantity is to be used, and then cut up for drawers of any desired depth. As many as desired may be joined side by side to form drawers of any width.